

recently made big headlines when a Pew research study was released saying that women are the primary earner in 4 of 10 households today, many of these women being the sole earners. But what was missed in this discussion is the impact that the pay gap is continuing to have on these households who are dependent on the salaries of women.

The pay gap results in \$4,000 less per year for working families and \$434,000 less over a lifetime. Think of what these families could accomplish if they got simply what they were owed. With rising costs for childcare, medical care, and filling up the family car, these families are held down by unfair and unjust pay policies.

While these are the day to day impacts, there are also real consequences to the pay gap over a lifetime. The pay gap affects your income, affects your pension, and affects your Social Security. Women's Social Security benefits are 71 percent of men's benefits. The average income from private pension based on women's earnings was only 48 percent of men's earnings. The consequences of our inaction on pay equity are following women out of the workplace, further impacting their lives down the line. For years I have fought a solution to this.

Under the Paycheck Fairness Act, no longer will employers be able to retaliate against workers for sharing information about wages. Right now, if you ask someone what they get paid you can get fired. For years, Lilly Ledbetter was humiliated and harassed because she tried to find out what she was making.

No longer will women be able to seek only back pay when they are discriminated against. Under this pay they can seek punitive damages. No longer will employers be able to use almost any reason to justify paying a woman less than a man. Excuses such as "oh, they do harder jobs," "oh, they do dangerous jobs," or "oh, they have a better education than you" will no longer be tolerated. Women do hard and dangerous jobs. Ask anyone who runs a daycare center or is a firefighter. No longer will women be on their own in fighting for equal pay for equal work or education and training.

In this country, they say work hard, play by the rules, and you will get ahead. We work hard every day, but we find the rules are different for women and men. In 1963 women made 59 cents for every dollar made by men. Almost 49 years later we have made an 18-cent gain. Women now make 77 cents for every dollar earned by men. Forty-nine years and 18 cents. That is not rewarding hard work, and it is certainly not playing by the rules.

In March, during the Budget debate, the Senate agreed with us and unanimously voted that it was time to do something about the pay gap. Well, now it is time to step up to the plate on this 50th anniversary. Let's end pay inequity and end the policies that keep

women uneducated and unequipped to fight for their fair share. It is not just for our pocketbooks. It is about the family checkbooks and getting it right in the law books. And it is also about the generations of women to come. Let's not make it another 50 years without giving the Equal Pay Act the tools it needs to finally fulfill its promise.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

MEDIC SPECIALIST CODY TOWSE

Mr. HATCH. Madam President, today I wish to pay tribute to one of Utah's great soldiers, Army Medic Cody Towse who was killed by an improvised explosive device in Afghanistan on May 14, 2013. He was coming to the aid of a fellow soldier when he was hit by one of four blasts that day.

Specialist Towse was assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 41st Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division from Fort Bliss, TX. He was deployed to the Kandahar region of Afghanistan in December 2012 and has served courageously there. While in Afghanistan, Towse was instrumental in training Afghan medics in emergency procedures; and became known as the candy doctor because he loved to give candy to the Afghan children. In fact, I think it speaks volumes about the character and love of this young man when, for his 21st birthday, he asked his parents to send him candy that he could give the children.

Specialist Towse's love for service began at an early age as he trained and worked as a volunteer firefighter and EMT for Elk Ridge City. He took great pride in his work and in helping others.

Sadly Specialist Towse's body returned home to Elk Ridge, UT last week encased in a silver, flag-draped coffin met by family and hundreds of admirers and friends wanting to pay tribute to this fallen soldier. Neighbors and friends lined the streets and quietly waved flags of respect, giving a special tribute to one of Utah's own.

Our Founding Fathers declared the United States a freedom-loving people—a declaration on which they risked everything—their lives, their fortunes and their sacred honor. Throughout our Nation's history, our liberty and our freedoms have been protected and cherished by our military. And so as we lay to rest this courageous hero, I pay tribute to Specialist Towse who has helped pave the road to freedom.

I love the following passage that so poignantly describes the peace and comfort I take from the examples and lives of our nation's soldiers. It states:

They died for liberty—they died for us. They are at rest. They sleep in the land they made free, under the flag they rendered stainless, under the solemn pines, the sad hemlocks, the tearful willows, the embracing vines. They sleep beneath the shadow of the clouds, careless alike of sunshine or storm, each in the windowless palace of rest . . . they are at peace.

I am humbled by this young man's life and sacrifice. May God bless his

family and all those he left behind with peace and comfort from their memories of this wonderful man and soldier.

REMEMBERING BEVERLEY TAYLOR SORENSON

Mr. HATCH. Madam President, today I wish to pay tribute to a wonderful woman, generous philanthropist, and tireless advocate for arts and education—Beverley Taylor Sorenson. Sadly, Utah and our Nation lost a truly delightful and influential woman this past week as she quietly passed away at the age of 89 surrounded by her loved ones.

I have known and worked closely with Beverley and her late husband James "Jim" Sorenson for many years and have always admired her work ethic, her commitment to serving others, and of course her love for and appreciation of the arts and the influence it can have in the lives of many.

Her love of the arts began at an early age as she fondly remembers music always playing in her childhood home. She grew into an accomplished dancer and pianist; in fact she would later earn money accompanying dance classes in Salt Lake City to help put herself through college.

Perhaps it was her own childhood experiences of personal arts education that later led to her passion for providing generations of children with the opportunity to learn and grow through the study of art and the many disciplines it entails. She witnessed firsthand the positive effects of arts education in many young lives and schools throughout the valley and set about trying to bring it to every corner of our State.

She was the driving impetus in the creation of Art Works for Kids, a program integrating arts based concepts into traditional core education subjects with wonderful results. She believed in this program greatly and felt that children would learn and retain more knowledge when coupled with art activities.

Because of her tireless efforts, the Beverley Taylor Sorenson Arts Learning Program, BTS Program, will serve tens of thousands of students during the upcoming school year at approximately 130 Utah elementary schools.

Beverley and Jim also created the Sorenson Legacy Foundation to support programs and projects that would benefit the lives of people throughout the world, giving generously and supporting vigorously. Together they built a lasting legacy of humanitarian service and philanthropy that has benefitted thousands and will continue to help generations to come.

Not only did Beverley dedicate herself to community efforts, she was a wonderful wife and mother, raising 2 sons, 6 daughters, and loving and mentoring 49 grandchildren and 65 great-grandchildren. She truly leaves behind a wonderful posterity who can build upon their mother and grandmother's example of a life well lived.

The impact and contributions Beverly Taylor Sorenson made to her family, our State, and our Nation will be felt for years to come. She was truly a magnificent lady who deeply cared about others and set about to do good throughout her life. Elaine and I send our deepest sympathies to her family and hope that they will find peace and comfort in the memories they share of this remarkable person.

TRIBUTE TO TERRY SCHOW

Mr. HATCH. Madam President, today I wish to pay tribute to an extraordinary man, dedicated public servant and tireless advocate for our Nation's veterans—Mr. Terry Schow. Terry will be retiring after more than 25 years of service to Utah's veterans.

Terry has been a long-time advocate, tireless worker, and public face for veterans causes in our State for almost three decades, and has served in top-level positions under three Utah Governors. I have had the pleasure of working with Terry for many years as Utah's Senator and I can attest to this man's dedication and love for our Nation's veterans and their needs. No one has worked harder, or cared more about the issues affecting veteran's lives and futures than Terry. He has approached so many important issues with dogged determination and never, ever let up until problems have been solved.

Through Terry's tireless leadership three veterans homes were opened, and medical services in our State for veterans have greatly expanded and improved. He has written articles in newspapers throughout our State to bring attention to the issues he has worked on daily for veterans, and has attended literally hundreds if not thousands of events in support of veterans and their sacrifices.

Terry has first hand knowledge of the service and sacrifices veterans make for our country. He is a U.S. Army veteran who volunteered to serve in 1967, and served in the 5th and 10th Special Forces Groups and the 25th Infantry Division in Southeast Asia. He has walked the path of soldiers and has been able to personally relate to the many men and women he has served.

His accomplishments in Utah have not gone unnoticed. He was tapped to serve as the president of the National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs for a time and was able to share his wealth of knowledge in this prestigious position with people throughout America all working to help our Nation's veterans. In addition he has served on dozens of boards and organizations committed to veterans issues.

Terry was born and raised in Ogden, UT and is the proud father of two children, and grandfather to three.

Utah's veterans have been well served by this man. He has truly been an extraordinary leader of veterans affairs and I know that many will great-

ly miss his advocacy and leadership on issues of great importance to this population. However, I am certain that retirement will not stop Terry's work and advocacy on behalf of veterans. He truly respects, and loves the men and women in uniform who have sacrificed so greatly for the freedoms we enjoy. I want to sincerely thank Terry for his dedication, his commitment and his tireless service to veterans. He has accomplished great things and paved the way for continued success and assistance for Utah's beloved veterans.

REMEMBERING LIEUTENANT PAUL MICHEL DEMEO

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Madam President, I rise to honor the life and service of 1LT Paul Michel DeMeo, who died on May 14 while stationed at Fort Bragg in North Carolina. Lieutenant DeMeo was a rifle platoon leader assigned to Company B, 2nd Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team of the 82nd Airborne Division.

Born at the U.S. Army Kwajalein Atoll in the Marshall Islands on October 1, 1989, the son of an American physicist at the base, Paul grew up around service members and knew that he wanted to join the military from a very young age. After his family moved to Derry, NH, when he was 13 years old, Paul attended high school at Pinkerton Academy, where he eventually became the school's first Air Force Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps participant to attend a military academy.

Paul completed his undergraduate education at West Point in 2011 and went on to graduate from the infantry officer leadership basic course, the U.S. Army Ranger School, and the U.S. Army Airborne School. As a rifle platoon leader, Paul was responsible for training, material support, and readiness of 38 paratroopers. He was awarded a number of honors for his service, including the Army Commendation Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Army Service Ribbon, the Air Assault Badge, the Parachutist Badge, and the Ranger Tab.

Paul was an avid swimmer who joined the swim team in Kwajalein at the age of 4. He also showed tremendous promise on the tennis court at a very early age. In fact, when he was only 8 years old, the Government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands invited him to represent the country in tennis at the 2000 Olympic games. However, Paul wisely declined the offer, considering himself just a bit too young for the competition.

Paul will be remembered for his exceptional leadership ability, his confident smile, and his strong loyalty to his fellow soldiers, especially paratroopers under his command. Paul dedicated his life to the service and protection of our country. He worked to make himself the best he could be and to answer the call of duty to de-

fend our way of life. For this, we are forever grateful.

Paul is survived by his parents, Paul and Lucienne DeMeo; his brothers, Nathen A. and Pascal J. DeMeo; his sister, Danya Aleesa DeMeo; and his maternal grandmother, Amonia Valbrun. He also leaves behind his girlfriend, Hannah Farmer of Charlotte, NC and his paternal grandfather, Paul J. DeMeo. I ask my colleagues and all Americans to join me in honoring the life and service of Lieutenant Paul Michel DeMeo.

VOTE EXPLANATION

• Mrs. MCCASKILL. Madam President, on Thursday morning, the Senate took cloture votes in relation to motions to proceed to S. 953 and S. 1003, which represent a Democratic and Republican proposal, respectively, to address the interest rate offered on subsidized Federal Stafford loans, a form of Federal student loan available to many who are pursuing a postsecondary education. I was unable to be present for these votes, due to a prescheduled commitment; before the timing of these votes was envisioned, my attendance was confirmed at a women's conference. Because my presence would not have changed the outcome of either vote, I honored my previous commitment. Had I been present I would have voted in support of S. 953 and opposed S. 1003.

In my State, over 150,000 students will borrow subsidized Stafford loans next school year. These are need-based loans given to kids who have studied hard and families who have made financial sacrifices and plan to borrow what they need to cover the rising costs of higher education. Rather than reward their efforts, the government plans to add to their burden unless action is taken. On July 1, the interest rate on new subsidized Stafford student loans is scheduled to double from 3.4 to 6.8 percent.

We are facing a crisis. Already, officials at the Federal Reserve, the Department of the Treasury, and the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau have all warned that student borrowing threatens to dampen consumption, depress the economy, limit credit creation, and pose a threat to our Nation's financial stability. Students and graduates in my State are already heavily in student loan debt. Two out of every three Missouri students will leave college with student loan debt. If we fail to take action, students with subsidized Stafford loans will have to pay over \$1,000 more than they would under current interest rates on their loans. At a time when a higher education is vital to expanded opportunity for so many young people and with a 21st century economy that increasingly demands workers with the skills learned as part of a college education, we cannot be making it even more difficult for young people to financially achieve a college education. We need to act.

There are several proposals to address this impending crisis. I am a